

Bob DeBolt
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Santa Cruz, CA 95060

May 10, 1999

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Refer to docket # 98N-103B

Dear Sir,

I am writing in regards to the irradiation of food, and the FDA proposal to remove labeling of irradiate food. Some of the dangers of irradiated food include irradiated fats can become rancid. Some foods may lose up to 20% of their vitamins. Irradiation may create free radicals which can produce radiolytic products, some of which are known carcinogens (benzene, formaldehyde, lipid peroxides). Only .05 milligrams of formaldehyde are needed to constitute a mutagenic dose. Irradiation of only 30 milligrams of sucrose can create this amount of formaldehyde.

The FDA's support of irradiated food is based on five out of 441 studies conducted. The validity of these five studies has been disputed by independent scientists. Many other studies revealed that subject animals experienced increased tumors, reproductive failures and kidney damage. A study in India found chromosomal abnormalities in children fed freshly irradiated wheat.

~~per~~ Accidents involving the radioactive materials used in the process have exposed workers to radiation.

The FDA declared irradiated food unsafe in 1968 and it is still unsafe today. I demand that

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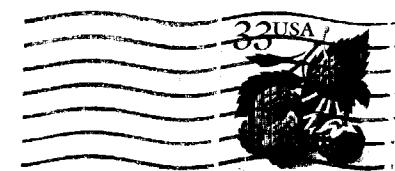
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all irradiated food be prominently labelled, using the term "irradiation" or "irradiated" and the use of the radura symbol.

Irradiated food is a dangerous human health threat and should be banned.

Sincerely,
Bob DeBolt

Mr. Robert D. Debolt
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